



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5529

February Session, 2000

***An Act Promoting And Enhancing Behavioral Health Services
For Children.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services and the
2 Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop and administer
3 an integrated behavioral health service delivery system for children
4 and youth with serious emotional disturbances who are eligible to
5 receive services from the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part B, the HUSKY
6 Plus program for intensive behavioral health needs or voluntary
7 services provided through the Department of Children and Families.
8 All necessary changes to the IV-E, Title XIX and Title XXI state plans
9 shall be made to maximize federal financial participation.

10 (b) Said commissioners shall enter into a memorandum of
11 understanding for the purpose of the joint administration of an
12 integrated behavioral health service delivery system. Such
13 memorandum of understanding shall specify that (1) the Department
14 of Social Services, which is the agency designated as the state agency
15 for the Medicaid program pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security
16 Act, administer combined funding, manage all Medicaid and HUSKY
17 Plan modifications, waiver amendments, federal reporting and claims
18 processing and provide financial management, and (2) the Department
19 of Children and Families, which is the state agency responsible for
20 administering and evaluating a comprehensive and integrated state-

21 wide program of services for children and youth who are seriously
22 emotionally disturbed, define the services to be included in the
23 continuum of care, establish standards, monitor implementation and
24 develop state-wide training programs on the systems of care approach
25 for providers, families and other persons.

26 (c) Not later than October 1, 2000, said commissioners shall
27 complete the memorandum of understanding, establish fiscal and
28 programmatic eligibility guidelines, develop fiscal and programmatic
29 outcome measures and develop a plan to evaluate the administration
30 of behavioral health services.

31 (d) Said commissioners may, through a request for proposal
32 process, select contractors to serve as lead service agencies and an
33 administrative service organization. The commissioners may
34 commence a project of limited scope and duration in the state fiscal
35 year commencing July 1, 2001, to implement the provisions of this
36 section in those locations where the commissioners determine that
37 services are well-developed and a high degree of cooperation exists
38 among providers.

39 (e) Said commissioners shall consult with the Commissioner of
40 Mental Health and Addiction Services during the development of the
41 integrated behavioral health service delivery system in order to ensure
42 coordination of a delivery system of behavioral health services across
43 the life span of children, youth and adults with behavioral health
44 needs.

45 (f) The Commissioner of Social Services and the Commissioner of
46 Children and Families may apply for any federal waivers necessary to
47 implement the provisions of this section.

48 Sec. 2. (NEW) Not later than January 1, 2001, and annually
49 thereafter, each local system of care shall (1) complete a local needs
50 assessment which shall include objectives and outcome measures, (2)
51 specify the number of children requiring behavioral health services, (3)
52 specify the number of children actually receiving community-based

53 and residential services and the type and frequency of such services,
54 and (4) complete an annual self-evaluation process and a review of
55 discharge summaries. For the purposes of this section, "local system of
56 care" means community-based organizations that work in teams to
57 deliver behavioral health services in a manner that assists children and
58 youth with behavioral health problems and provides their families
59 with access to the full range of services tailored to the physical,
60 emotional, social and educational needs of each individual in or near
61 the communities in which they reside.

62 Sec. 3. Not later than October 1, 2000, the Commissioner of Social
63 Services and the Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit
64 a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
65 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the
66 budgets of state agencies, human services and public health that
67 specifies a behavioral health program plan to: (1) Determine the
68 clinical and functional criteria that will be used to identify those
69 children and youth in the target population specified in subsection (a)
70 of section 1 of this act who will receive services from the integrated
71 behavioral health service delivery system; (2) estimate state and
72 federal funds for behavioral health services under the HUSKY Plan,
73 Part A and Part B and Title IV-E according to the criteria to be
74 developed under subdivision (1) of this section; (3) enhance the local
75 systems of care established under section 17a-127 of the general
76 statutes as the primary providers of services under the integrated
77 behavioral health service delivery system; (4) define and establish lead
78 service agencies to coordinate the local systems of care; (5) contract
79 with an administrative services organization to provide data and
80 fiduciary management for the lead service agencies; (6) deliver high
81 quality care in the least restrictive environment; (7) determine the
82 feasibility of allowing for a hardship exemption under the provisions
83 of section 17b-299 of the general statutes for eligible children who meet
84 the criteria to be developed under subdivision (1) of this section; (8)
85 determine the feasibility of allowing eligible children whose parents
86 have a household income which exceeds three hundred per cent of the
87 federal poverty level to purchase health insurance coverage under the

88 HUSKY Plan, Part B; (9) develop a strategy for enhancing home and
89 community-based services in order to allow children and youth in out-
90 of-home placements to return to their families and communities; (10)
91 establish mechanisms for the continuous evaluation and quality
92 improvement of the integrated behavioral health service delivery
93 system, including periodic evaluation of behavioral health programs
94 and services and research on child outcomes; (11) establish a program
95 for training staff and providers regarding the changes in the system of
96 care principles and structures and in all aspects of the delivery of care
97 under the integrated behavioral health service delivery system; and
98 (12) establish procedures for compiling all data and conducting all
99 needs assessments as are necessary for planning an integrated
100 behavioral health service delivery system.

101 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

HS Committee Vote: Yea 18 Nay 0 JFS

PH Committee Vote: Yea 17 Nay 0 JF